

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 4

FEBRUARY 1965

Board Of Directors Has January Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention met at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday, January 26, 1965. Twenty-three members of the board and four visitors were present.

The major item on the agenda was consideration of the proposal to form a United Church Conference. The board voted again its support of the plan and to recommend to the churches and ministers that it be adopted at the annual meeting of the convention on April 24-25, 1965.

Following full discussion the board adopted a letter to be sent to the ministers and churches concerning the United Church Conference and urging support for the plan.

In other actions the board received the financial report of the treasurer, W. J. Strickland, which indicated the convention operated within its income for the year. However, this was possible primarily because the staff position in Christian Education was not filled.

The budget adopted for 1965 calls for total OCWM receipts in the amount of \$38,292.00. Actual OCWM receipts in 1964 were \$32,073.78. This means an increase of \$6,218.22 is needed in 1965 to balance the budget.

Total receipts in 1964 were \$65,764.23 and total disbursements were \$64,225.71, leaving a balance of \$1,538.52.

The board also approved minor changes in the constitution and by-laws which will be submitted to the annual meeting for action following favorable action to form a United Church Conference. Copies of the proposed changes will be sent to the ministers and churches in advance of the annual meeting.

Rev. Harold C. Henderson, moderator, presided over the meeting. Each association and conference of the convention was represented by at least one person at the meeting. Plans were made for the annual meeting.



Rev. Scott S. Libbey PF Meeting Speaker

The Rev. Scott S. Libbey of Philadelphia is secretary for Youth Ministry of the Division of Christian Education of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Mr. Libbey will deliver the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship. The meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

He is the author of the junior high course of the new United Church curriculum, *God's Restless Servants*, and the students' resource book, *Rebels and God*, published in 1964.

A native of Ames, Iowa, Mr. Libbey received a B. A. from the State University of Iowa in 1951 and a B. D. from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1954.

He is married to the former Jean Lundblad of Fort Dodge, Iowa. They have three children, Jean, Steven, and Jan.

Before joining the national staff in 1961 Mr. Libbey was director of Christian Education of the Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa. He pre-

Chattanooga Hosts Annual PF Meeting March 20-21

The 1965 annual meeting of the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Southeast Convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The theme chosen for the annual sessions is "The Church: Relevant or Irrelevant?" The theme hymn is "He Who Would Valiant Be."

Jimmy Lightbourne of Atlanta, Ga., president of the organization, will preside over the meeting. The call to order will come at 10:30 a. m. on Saturday, but registration will begin at 9 a. m. and there will be fellowship singing from 10 until 10:30.

Every young people's group in the churches of the Southeast Convention is urged to be represented by young people of the group and its adult counselors.

For the first time in its history the annual meeting will be host to fraternal delegates from the Negro young people of the Convention of the South.

Registration forms will be sent to the ministers and churches from the Southeast Convention office. These should be returned by March 8 to:

Pilgrim Congregational Church
Glenwood at Third
Chattanooga 4, Tenn.

The registration fee is \$5.00 per person and should accompany the form. Checks should be made payable to Pilgrim Congregational Church. After March 9 the registration fee will be \$5.50.

Overnight entertainment on Saturday night will be provided by the host church. Information concerning hotels and motels also will be provided.

Dues of 50c per member from each local group should be sent to the treasurer:

Mike Culpepper
Rt. 1
Talladega, Alabama 36078

viously served a parish in Red Oak, Iowa.

Pilgrim Circuit Rider Starts New Career; Now Will Travel And Teach In Philippines

A 66-year-old lady minister of the United Church of Christ who has spent the past decade driving the back roads of America in her home on wheels is switching to a new career overseas.

Retiring from her ministry, which has ranged from Indian reservations in the Dakotas to the rural south, the Rev. (Miss) Leila W. Anderson will leave next month to begin three years' service in the Philippines. Her versatile and faithful step-van will join her there.

Miss Anderson's "parsonage on wheels" is equipped with all the comforts of home and all the necessities of an office. She has sleeping, cooking, and laundry space and ample room for books, projectors, slides, pamphlets, file cabinets, and other equipment used in her teaching and counselling.

A special Service of Recognition for Miss Anderson was held on Sunday, January 24, at 3:30 p. m. at the First Congregational Church, Oak Park, Illinois, of which Rev. Dr. Oliver Powell is the minister. Other participants in the service included Miss Mildred C. Widber, Boston, Division of Christian Education of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries; Dr. Howard F. Schomer, Chicago, president of Chicago Theological Seminary and a member of the United Church Board for World Ministries; and Rev. James R. Smucker, Chicago, executive director of the Northeast Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Miss Anderson has been a field worker in the denomination's Division of Christian Education since 1946. Her ministry became mobile in 1953 and she earned her reputation as the Pilgrim Circuit Rider. She started her first trip around the United States at Douglas, Wyoming, and 73,000 miles and three years later completed the circuit at Omaha, Nebraska. She had visited 532 churches in 38 states, and actually served more churches because 172 others shared in the visits. A couple of months later she started out on another circuit.

At each stop along the way the local church leaders had planned a full calendar of meetings with women's groups, men's groups, youth groups, and church schools. During the past few years of her work with the Board

for Homeland Ministries she has concentrated on helping to interpret the denomination's new Church School Curriculum. She has described her experiences in a book called the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider", published in 1960 by Harper and Brothers, which has been put on records for the blind by the Library of Congress.

Once, in Kansas, she visited two churches a day for three weeks. Sometimes she settled in for two or three days, enjoying the warm hospitality and good farm cooking. Always she brought encouragement, practical advice, and a link with the overall work of the church.

A lady mechanic as well as a lady minister, trim blue-eyed Miss Anderson can change a tire as readily as she can quote Scriptures. Born and brought up on a farm herself, she can talk about crops as well as curriculum.

For several years she was accompanied on her travels by a parakeet called "Peter Piper", who became known as the "littlest missionary" and built up a great following for himself, especially among children. ("Peter Piper" was given to Miss Anderson by friends in the Southeast Convention. We are sorry to report he recently died.)

In the Philippines, where she will serve under the United Church Board for World Ministries, Miss Anderson will be training lay leadership, traveling from place to place, mostly on dirt roads, wherever her help is needed. She will continue to use her step-van.

She will sail from San Francisco on February 18 on the S. S. President Wilson of the American President Lines.

Asked what she has in mind after the Philippines, Miss Anderson replies that she hopes to continue her service through volunteer work in the United States.

Born near LaMoille, Illinois, Miss Anderson was graduated from Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois. She received the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. She is listed in "Who's Who of American Women" and the "Dictionary of International Biography", published in London in 1963.

Before joining the national staff of

Church Finance Figures Show Convention Behind

The United Church of Christ ranks in the middle among all major Protestant denominations in the United States in per member giving according to recently reported statistics. The 1963 figures are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Presbyterian Church U. S. | \$109.46 |
| Lutheran Church | |
| Missouri Synod | 102.26 |
| United Presbyterian | 90.46 |
| American Lutheran | 81.11 |
| Protestant Episcopal | 76.20 |
| Disciples of Christ | 75.81 |
| United Church of Christ | 73.11 |
| Lutheran Church in America | 71.45 |
| American Baptist Convention | 68.34 |
| Methodist Church | 59.60 |
| Southern Baptist | 53.49 |

For comparison, the churches of the Southeast Convention that are a part of the United Church had an average of \$73.08. The average for all of the churches of the convention was \$64.61. This means that the convention as a whole is below the national average for the United Church, but the churches a part of the United Church are at our national average.

The national average for the United Church of Christ for benevolent contributions is \$10.71 per member. The average for the churches of the convention in the United Church is \$5.93. This is a little more than half the national average. The figure for all the churches of the convention is \$4.92 per member.

The benevolent giving of the convention is only 7.5% of the amount spent on local expenses of the churches. This is way below the national average.

Congregational Christian Churches she taught in country schools for five years and for eight years was a member of the faculty of Iberia Junior College, Iberia, Missouri. She served from 1940 to 1946 as director of Christian Education of the South Dakota Conference of the denomination. She is a member of the First Congregational Church in Oak Park, Illinois.

Miss Anderson is remembered with respect and affection by many of the churches and people of the Southeast Convention. She has spent many months in the area during the past decade. Her van has been a familiar sight parked in a churchyard or in the driveway of a nearby home.

Churches Urged Support One Great Hour Sharing

"I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

In one year \$300,000 given by the United Church of Christ transported and distributed over 120 million pounds of U. S. surplus foods to feed the hungry. Food for work projects built dams to provide reservoirs of fresh water in the arid wastes in Ghana. Financial support made possible pilot projects in solar distillation on the dry island of Syme, Athens.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me."

Homeless refugees from India, West Pakistan, Africa, Hong Kong, and other countries received food and shelter. Clothing and blankets representing a value of over \$600,000, given through Material Aid programs and the United Clothing appeal, were shipped to Algeria, Alaska, and other countries where people were suffering from exposure.

"I was sick and you visited; I was in prison and you came to me . . ."

Antibiotics and other medicines were included in supplies sent in response to over forty calls for emergency aid last year.

Rehabilitation and comfort were given to Arab refugees imprisoned in compounds that provide little to sustain life or spirit. Help was even given to people behind the Iron Curtain.

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me."

Christ identified himself with the hungry and thirsty, the stranger and the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. He chose to call them his brethren.

This partial account of one year's service administered through the Division of World Service of the United Church of Christ shows that our church has responded to Christ's impelling words. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing appeal we support this service of compassion. However, only 3,232 of the 8,000 churches of the United Church of Christ participated in the 1964 appeal. Imagine the service we could render if we achieved a 90% participation. Be sure your church is a part of this fellowship of compassion. Observe One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 28.

Uplands Retirement Center Offers Many Attractions

The Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, is one of the Retirement Centers related to the United Church of Christ.

Varied types of retirement living are offered in this rural location between Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga.

A Licensed Skilled Nursing Home, with rates ranging from \$150 to \$225 monthly, offers routine nursing care and the attention of two resident physicians. In addition, Uplands owns and operates a sixty-five bed general hospital in nearby Crossville.

Four housing sub-divisions are available for those who wish to buy, build and maintain their own retirement homes. Lots range from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Life-lease apartments are available for those who wish to keep house but be free from the work, worry and expense of maintaining a home. Prices for apartments range from \$7,000 to \$8,500 with a monthly maintenance charge of \$32.50 to \$35.00. Apartments are electrically heated and feature major appliances, carpets, and safety alarm.

All facilities are located near churches, post office, school, stores, community library, craft shop and neighbors. Residents are encouraged to participate in normal community life. Write for information.

Social Security Notice Important To Ministers

Ordained and licensed ministers whose date for electing social security coverage as ministers had previously expired are now able to obtain such coverage under a recently enacted law.

The new law provides that an individual may obtain coverage by filing a valid waiver certificate, form 2031, after October 13, 1964, and on or before the due date of the return (including any extension thereof) for his second taxable year ending after 1962, if he has had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more (some part of which is derived from the exercise of his ministry) for at least two taxable years after 1954. For most taxpayers this will be not later than April 15, 1965.

The certificate will be effective for the taxpayer's first taxable year ending after 1961 and for all succeeding years.

This means that a minister electing coverage normally would have to pay the self-employment tax for 1962 and 1963 at this time as well as for 1964.

If a minister who has been eligible for such coverage does not elect to participate in social security at this time, he will lose his eligibility and it is likely he will not be given another opportunity in the future.

For information check with your Social Security or Income Tax office.

The Ten Most Wanted Men (Or Women) . . .

Description:

1. PHYSICIAN — for Ghana
2. EDUCATOR (Secondary Administration)
3. PHYSICIAN-SURGEON — for West India
4. AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL ARTS TEACHER — for Philippines
5. CHEMISTRY and/or MATHEMATICS TEACHER (Master's Degree) — for Near East
6. CHAPLAIN-TEACHER SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES — for Micronesia
7. HOUSEPARENTS for missionary children — for Ghana
8. PHYSICIAN-SURGEON — for Central India
9. NURSE (M. S. in Nursing Education) — for Rhodesia
10. PHYSICIAN FOR T. B. WORK — for Indonesia

On Recognition of Any of the Above, Notify At Once the Conference Office or the United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York

— REWARD —

The Joy of Significant Service for God and Fellowmen!

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION
of Congregational Christian Churches
(The United Church of Christ)

673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.

Atlanta, Ga. Trinity 4-2558

Single Subscription \$1.50 per year

Group Subscription \$1.00 per year

STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor

Printed by The Roanoke Leader,
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. XIII Feb. 1965 No. 4

Superintendent's Corner

At each meeting of the board of directors of the convention I am called on to give a report of my activities as superintendent. On occasion I carefully prepare a written report. At other times it seems more fitting to give an informal account. Perhaps you might be interested in some of the things I reported to the board in January.

During 1964 I spent approximately 150 days involved in formal meetings of one kind or another. This does not include conferences with individuals or visitors to the office.

There were more than 60 visits to local churches either for services or special meetings. These were formal meetings.

I seem to have done a fair amount of talking. I delivered more than 60 sermons and addresses during the year—and, I'd venture to say, many more informal lectures than that!

Miles traveled? Over 50,000. I don't keep track anymore because it discourages me. So far as I can tell there is no basic relationship between miles traveled and what is accomplished.

As you would expect, the administrative duties of being superintendent require a fair amount of time in the office. It may interest you to know that it requires between two and three days each month to prepare the Southeast News copy for the printer.

All in all, being superintendent is a busy life. It does require a lot of travel and being away from home a great deal. But there are compensations. One gets to meet and work with many fine lay people and ministers. The work is exciting rather than monotonous. To be brief, I like it!

A Letter From The Board Of Directors

To: The Ministers and Churches of the Southeast Convention
From: The Board of Directors

Dear Fellow-Laborers and Servants of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

The members of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc., have given full and prayerful consideration to the proposal that the Southeast Convention become a United Church Conference. The proposal is that the white and Negro Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in this area form a United Church Conference (Convention). The plan will make no changes in the present associations for the time being. We are convinced that this action will be in accord with the command of our Lord Jesus Christ that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

The plan for realignment was defeated at the annual meeting last year, 86 to 75, but the delegates approved a resolution calling upon the Board of Directors to give further consideration to the reorganization-realignment proposal and to bring it before the 1965 annual meeting for action.

The Board of Directors met on September 21, 1964. After consideration of the situation and its various implications, the Board voted "... to re-confirm its approval of the proposal to form a United Church Conference in this area and to submit the same basic recommendation to the 1965 annual meeting of the convention." The Board has again given full consideration to the proposal and the situation of the Southeast Convention at its meeting on January 26, 1965.

We are fully convinced that the proposal to form a United Church Conference, so far as the mechanics of organization are concerned, is reasonable, efficient and scriptural. We do not see the necessity for a new plan.

We are equally convinced this proposal should be approved by the annual meeting of the convention. The United Church is a fact. The overwhelming majority of former Congregational Christian Churches have voted to become a part of the United Church. All of the former Congregational Christian organizations with which we have had historical and traditional ties are in the United Church. All over the country the former Congregational Christian Conferences and Conventions and Reformed Church Synods are forming United Church Conferences. As a matter of fact, this area—involving the Southeast Convention, the Evangelical and Reformed Churches (four) in Alabama and Tennessee, and the Negro Congregational Christian Churches (twenty-five) in this region—is the only one in which agreement to form a conference has not been reached. Except in two or three cases, the United Church Conferences already are formed.

On the basis of its responsibility to the churches of the convention, to the United Church of Christ, to our heritage from the past and the opportunities of the future, and to its understanding of the meaning of the Christian Gospel, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention urges the churches, ministers and people of the Southeast Convention to give whole-hearted support to the formation of a United Church Conference in this area.

Let us together vote approval of the proposal at the annual meeting of the convention April 24-25, 1965, and set ourselves to the task of giving more effective witness to our Christian faith and greater support to our Christian mission to the world.

In Christian Love,

Harold C. Henderson
Moderator

James H. Lightbourne, Jr.
Superintendent

People...

Churches...

Events...

Church Builders Club Membership Drive On

When the Church Builder's Club annual meeting is held on Sunday, April 25, in connection with the Southeast Convention annual session at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., the president of the club, Rev. Bill A. Hodnett, hopes to present a check in the amount of at least \$1,000 to the current project — the United Church of Huntsville, Alabama.

At the present time a total of \$645 has been received from individuals and organizations of the churches, as follows:

| Name of Church | Total |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Atlanta, Central | \$ 5.00 |
| Barnesville, Fredonia | 50.00 |
| Birmingham, Pilgrim | 15.00 |
| Caddo, Cong'l. Christian | 5.00 |
| Chattanooga, Pilgrim | 135.00 |
| Crossville, First | 10.00 |
| Demorest, Federated | 10.00 |
| Headland, Blackwood | 20.00 |
| Lanett, First | 175.00 |
| Langdale | 40.00 |
| Montgomery, United | 55.00 |
| Phenix City, Russell Woods | 80.00 |
| Soddy, First | 15.00 |
| West Point, Bethel | 25.00 |
| Other | 5.00 |
| Total | \$645.00 |

To date only fourteen churches have sent in the contributions for memberships in the Church Builders Club that they have received. Probably there are many churches that have not yet put on a drive for memberships.

Therefore, all of the churches of the convention, except those that already have done so, are urged to put on a drive for memberships in the Church Builders Club between now and the annual meeting.

Individual memberships are \$5.00. Organizations are invited to contribute \$10.00 for a membership. All checks should be made payable to The Church Builders Club and sent to the Southeast Convention office along with a list of the persons and organizations taking memberships in the club.

The Church Builders Club is one of the means of helping start new churches within the boundaries of the Southeast Convention. The funds raised are used to help a new church in its building program.

Plan now to have a membership drive in your local church.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Dr. Jesse H. Dollar

The Rev. Dr. Jesse H. Dollar has accepted the position of Pastor-at-Large of the East Alabama Association on a part-time basis effective January 1, 1965.

Dr. Dollar will be available to the churches and ministers of the association to give guidance in the areas of stewardship and missionary education and to provide information about the United Church.

Dr. and Mrs. Dollar now make their home at 51 Lakeview Drive, Roanoke, Alabama. They moved to their home, "The Rest Nest", last summer following his retirement as minister of the Newport News, Va., Congregational Christian Church.

A native of Alabama, Dr. Dollar has served pastorates in both the Southeast and the Southern Convention. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Congregational Christian Churches during the critical years when the United Church of Christ was formed.

At present Dr. Dollar is also serving as interim pastor of the Langdale Church while it is searching for a new minister.

The East Alabama Association and the Southeast Convention are fortunate to have the services of a man with such a background of experience and knowledge.

* * * *

The United Church Assembly

The annual United Church Assembly, which brings together the staffs and boards of directors of the national instrumentalities as well as the executives of the conferences and Christian Education directors, was held at French Lick, Indiana, January 30-February 3.

Rev. Robert Hendrix, chairman of the convention committee on Christian Education attended the meeting on Christian Education. W. Pressley Ingram attended the meeting of the directors of the Council for Lay Life and Work.

Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater were also in attendance. Mr. Slater is a member of the Executive Council of the United Church. Supt. Lightbourne also was present.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF



N. Alabama Youth Fellowship

Pictured above are the officers of the N. Alabama Youth Fellowship who were elected at a recent meeting.

Left to right: Jack Werkau, Huntsville United Church, vice-president; Kermit Butler, St. John's Church, Cullman, past president; Koleyne Butler, St. John's Church, Cullman, secretary-treasurer; Rev. Albert L. Henry, Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, adult advisor; Charles Plosser, Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, president.

A rally for the young people of North Alabama is planned for April. The date, time, and place will be announced later.

* * * *

Summer Camps

The Junior and Senior High Camps for the young people of Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Northwest Florida will be held at the Laura Walker State Park, Waycross, Georgia, August 1-7.

The dates and places of the camps for Kentucky and Tennessee will be announced later. It is anticipated that they will be in June.

Now is the time for young people to begin making plans to attend summer camp. Additional information will be sent to the churches later.

* * * *

Mr. Emerson McBay

Mr. Emerson McBay, a student at Athens College, Alabama, and a licensee of the Decatur District of the Methodist Church, is currently serving as pastor of the Congregational Christian Church in Garden City, Alabama.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 8, Georgia

Second Class Postage Paid
at Atlanta, Georgia

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARPING

Division of Service

Board for World Ministries

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027

1720 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri, 63103

